

SA NAVY DETONATIONS SIMON'S TOWN

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WESSA Endorsement of Concerns

- NGOs
- Marine Scientists
- Concerned environmentalists and citizens
- Apparently ignored



Navy's Protective Role

- “fight at sea” to protecting South Africa’s coastlines and marine resources.”
- Ironically causes harm to marine resources
- Coast guarding against current threats



PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

- requires the state and others to exercise a duty of care
- Avoid consequences not fully understood.
- African Penguins – crashed 80% in 50 years
- IUCN RED list
- SANBI – extinction in the next decade
- Principle routinely ignored
- CONSEQUENCES



SA MEMBER OF IUCN

- “forefront of the global fight to save species from extinction.”
- Members should walk the talk
- Navy’s co-operation needed



30 x 30

- SA keen participation in the Global Biodiversity Framework, the “30x30” Vision
- 2030 Aim to conserve 30 percent of land, water and marine areas
- Not just Green altruism
- Essential for humans



SDGs 14

- SA signed on in 2015
- Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.”
- “healthy oceans and seas are essential to human existence and life on Earth.”
- Daunting array of issues
 - massive overfishing
 - continual pollution
 - drilling, mining and prospecting
 - Bunkering
- Needs massive co-operation of all relevant agencies
- Navy too



CONSTITUTION

- “everyone has the right to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation [and] promote conservation”.

